

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Summary of Public Meeting to Discuss Lake Berryessa Community Forum

Date: January 17, 2013

Time: 6:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Spanish Flat Senior Center,

Status of ongoing actions at Lake Berryessa:

The purpose of the meeting was to update the public on activities that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has undertaken since the public meeting held in December 2012 and to obtain public input on the formation of the Lake Berryessa Community Forum. A copy of the meeting agenda is located at the end of this summary.

Pablo Arroyave, Mid Pacific Region Deputy Director, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), provided a status update of the Pensus concession contract termination and Reclamation's current operations plans.

Pensus filed their Notice of Appeal and Petition for Stay with the Department of the Interior's Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) on January 8, 2013. Reclamation will file the official case file and respond to Pensus' Petition for Stay. Pensus has 30 days from the date of filing their appeal to file their opening brief on the merits. OHA, under their regulations, has 45 days from the expiration of filing the Notice of Appeal to rule on the Petition for Stay but could rule after 45 days. The decision to terminate the contract is effective unless and until OHA grants a stay of the decision and/or upholds Pensus's appeal. If OHA grants a stay pending appeal, Pensus would have the right and responsibility to operate and develop services under the contract pending a decision on the merits of the appeal.

Drew Lessard, Deputy Area Manager, Central California Area Office, Reclamation, discussed immediate and short-range plans.

Reclamation will continue to implement all of the plans presented to the public during the December 10-12, 2012, public meetings unless a stay is granted. Reclamation will operate Chaparral Cove (Putah Creek), Foothill Pines (Spanish Flat) and Lupine Shores (Steele Park) this winter and early spring providing day use and boat launching.

Reclamation plans to enter into interim concession contracts in late spring to provide some expanded visitor services for the recreation season. Specifically, the interim contracts will require that an interim contractor provide camping at Oak Shores (camping would occur in the north end of Oak Shores along with the government-provided day use in the south end), boat launching, day use and camping to various degrees at Chaparral Cove (Putah Creek), Foothill Pines (Spanish Flat) and Lupine Shores (Steele Park) concession areas. These interim contracts and the specific services provided by these contracts still need to be determined and awarded.

Reclamation has begun initial discussions with the contractor currently operating the Markley Cove concession area to gauge their interest and potential to enter into an interim concession contract to continue to provide services at Markley Cove past their current contract expiration date of May 26, 2013. Reclamation hopes to execute this contract as soon as possible, pending the outcome of the Pensus stay petition.

Drew Lessard also stated that Reclamation is researching any legal issues regarding using the original names of the resorts and that barring any such restrictions and if the Pensus stay request and appeal are denied, Reclamation would like to change the names to the old names or a variation on those old names.

Lake Berryessa Community Forum (Forum):

Drew Lessard talked about the formation of the Forum. In December 2012 Reclamation committed to the public that the agency would focus on the goals, objectives, composition and process of the Forum at the January 2013 meeting, and so this is the focus for tonight. The Forum must stay within the parameters outlined in the Visitor Services Plan Record of Decision (VSP ROD). The Forum will not be a decision making body, but will allow public input before key decisions are made by Reclamation. As such the Forum will not be regulated by the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). The Forum will also provide a way to track issues and priorities and will allow meaningful dialogue between stakeholders and Reclamation.

Reclamation presented the overall concept of the Forum as being comprised of a "Forum Coordinating Team" which will meet regularly with Reclamation, with the general public invited to attend all meetings and provide input. The Forum Coordinating Team would consist of approximately ten stakeholder seats as shown below., Reclamation heard the public's comments on this concept and asked groups and individuals to nominate people to serve as representatives for the stakeholder seats. These representatives would represent the full spectrum of the stakeholder group.

The ten stakeholder groups presented by Reclamation are:

- Local Landowners/Residents
- Local Ranchers
- Local Businesses
- Land-based recreation
- Water-based recreation
- Conservation groups
- Gateway communities
- Water quality/supply
- Game and Fish Management
- Public Services/Public Safety

Next Steps:

Jeff Laird talked about the next steps in the creation of the Forum. The first Forum meeting will be held the last week of February 2013. Nominations for stakeholder seats should include a brief (1 page maximum) resume or description of why an individual would be suited to represent a stakeholder group in the forum. Nominations should be provided to the Park Manager by February 7, 2013. Reclamation will review the nomination and will select the representatives. Once representatives are

selected, Reclamation will notify all nominees of their status and will issue a press release prior to the February meeting.

Forum meetings are open to the public, so for those who do not feel that their concerns are represented by someone selected to the Forum, they will have the opportunity to attend meeting and let their concerns be known.

Future Forum meetings will be rotated between Lake Berryessa, Winters and Napa and meetings may be held in the evenings or the afternoon. Meeting notes will be posted on the Lake Berryessa webpage.

For questions, comments, or nominations for membership on the Forum, or other issues regarding Lake Berryessa, contact Park Manager Jeff Laird, either by e-mail (JLaird@usbr.gov), mail (Lake Berryessa Office, Park Manager, 5520 Knoxville RD., Napa CA 94558) or by phone (707-966-2111, ext 0).

For additional information, please visit the Lake Berryessa website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cao/berryessa> and click on *“Recreation Updates”* in the light-blue navigation column on the left.